

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 16, 17, 19-28, 31-34, 36-45, 47 and 48 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19-23, 28, 31-34, 36, 39-41, 44, 45, 47 and 48 have been amended, and Claims 7, 14, 15, 18, 29, 30, 35 and 46 have been cancelled, herewith. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants request entry of this amendment after final as placing this case in condition for allowance or better form for appeal.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

Claims 1, 4, 10, 17, 20, 26, 33, 36 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McKennon, III et al. (US Pub. 2002/0129143). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, Applicants have amended such claim to include the features of allowable Claim 7. Thus, it is urged that Claim 1 is now allowable.

With respect to Claim 17, Applicants have amended such claim to include the features of allowable Claim 18. Thus, it is urged that Claim 17 is now allowable.

With respect to Claim 33, Applicants have amended such claim to include the features of allowable Claim 35. Thus, it is urged that Claim 33 is now allowable.

With respect to Claims 4, 10, 20, 26, 36 and 42, each of these dependent claims depend upon an allowable claim (as described above), and thus these dependent claims are similarly allowable due to such dependent claim status.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 10, 17, 20, 26, 33, 36 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

Claims 11, 27 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over McKennon, III et al. (US Pub. 2002/0129143) in view of Newberg et al. (US Pub. 2002/0093983). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claims 11, 27 and 43, each of these dependent claims depend upon an allowable claim (as described above), and thus these dependent claims are similarly allowable due to such dependent claim status.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 11, 27 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of Claims 16, 32 and 48.

Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-25, 28-31, 34, 35, 37-41 and 44-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, Applicants have amended Claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 19, 23, 28, 31, 34, 39, 44, 45 and 47 in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Claims 7, 18 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as the features recited therein have been included in their respective independent claims. The remaining pending dependent claims all depend upon an allowable claim, and thus these remaining dependent claims are similarly allowable due to such dependent claim status.

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Respectfully submitted,

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